

# Kiwanis awards RTR chaplain Clergy of the Year



Lieutenant Cmdr. Bruce Boyle, regimental chaplain for Recruit Training Regiment, prepares to baptize a recruit at the Religious Ministries Center May 20. Boyle wears wadders to make sure he will not get any water on his uniform in the baptismal pool. The local chapter of the Kiwanis Club awarded Boyle with the Clergy of the Year award.

LANCE CPL.  
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STAFF WRITER

As the pinnacle of the Annual Prayer Breakfast highlighting the Worldwide Kiwanis Prayer Week, the local chapter of the Kiwanis Club presented Lt. Cmdr. Bruce Boyle, regimental chaplain for Recruit Training Regiment, with the Clergy of the Year award at the Golden Corral Steakhouse May 20.

The annual award was developed in 1991, to give recognition to local clergymen, and is presented to a member of the clergy who has demonstrated service beyond that which is normally associated with ministerial duties.

“His accomplishments just stood out,” said Bill Knepp, Navy Federal Credit Union manager. “After we read his nomination, we closed the book.”

Boyle’s list of accomplishments is astonishing when considering that he has only been aboard Parris Island for 11 months.

Boyle believes that one of the most important contributions he made was his participation in Recruit Core Values Classes.

He supervised and taught classes to more than 13,500 recruits in areas such as first-term Marine marriages, moral courage and personal commitments, and sexual assault prevention.

Those accomplishments equal a vast amount of undertakings Boyle took on willingly, although he deferred credit, saying that he would not have succeeded without

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- Lt. Cmdr. Bruce Boyle, regimental chaplain for RTR

team effort.

“I am just fortunate enough to be the regimental chaplain,” said Boyle. “I see it not so much honoring me as it honors the religious ministries team aboard Parris Island. I see it as a bigger way of thanking all of us, and what we do. I may be the point man for this, but it is a huge team, and I am certainly not going to take all of the credit for it.”

Though Boyle may defer much of the credit to a team effort, his team leader Capt. Ralph Gibson, Assistant Chief of Staff for Religious Ministries, sees the

work that was done as an example for others to follow.

“We are very pleased and proud that he was recognized as Clergy of the Year, it is well deserved,” said Gibson. When he came to Parris Island, he hit the road running. He is active in more than just his job here and that makes him a well known chaplain throughout the community.”

Along with his large list of accomplishments, it is the little things that Boyle does that endear him to his command.

“He preaches at the RTR chapel, is on the motivational runs every chance he gets, does the nine-mile hikes and teaches classes for chaplains when they are on Temporary Assigned Duty or on leave,” Gibson said enthusiastically. “So he is right out there not only with the other chaplains, but with the recruits.”

After all is said and done, Boyle still feels that he is merely helping out his extended family. He looks at the recruits as his children and the sailors and Marines he works with as brothers and sisters.

“The plaque is a reflection of the great people who have helped me do my job,” said Boyle. “I, in turn, help them do their job, and if you want to go further, it is not just the religious program specialists. It is also the drill instructors, company commanders, executive officers and the first sergeants. We are all part of one team trying to help these recruits become United States Marines.”

# District News: Father, son join Band of Brothers together

SGT. ERIC LUCERO  
MPA, 6TH MCD

It is not unusual for a father to be extensively involved in his son’s decision-making process that will send his precious offspring down one of life’s most arduous journeys, like Marine Corps recruit training. What is unusual, however, is for that parent to follow his child on that journey.

C.J. D’Alessandro joined the Delayed Entry Program early this year after many conversations with Sgt. Brandon Jamison, canvassing recruiter for Recruiting Substation Columbia.

C.J. was named for a close relative nicknamed C.J., but his given name is actually C.J. Four months after C.J. made the decision to join, his father, Terence, 36, made the same commitment, also after talking with Jamison.

For Terence, the decision was easier than it may seem. He had already served more than six years in the Marine Corps, from 1990 through 1996.

Leaving the Corps in 1996 was a tougher decision. Terence was thrust into a situation where he had to decide between taking orders that would land him overseas, or leaving the Corps and drudging through a long, pain-staking process of obtaining full custody of his teenage son.

The decision to leave the Marine Corps had been tearing at him for the better part of eight years.

“C.J.’s mother asked if I can take him for a while when he was close to about thirteen years old,” said Terence. “I was getting ready to get orders overseas and knew taking over custody and having to leave him with someone while I went overseas would be wrong.”

After leaving the Corps, Terence took a civilian job, finished his degree in sociology from South Carolina State University and most importantly, began to build a relationship with his son.

“Going from being single to living with a thirteen-year-old young man was a bit of a tran-

sition for me,” Terence said smiling. “It was something I was clueless about.”

C.J.’s approach to the matter did not exactly help.

“I was a little hardheaded,” C.J. said grinning. “I was thirteen and thought I knew everything.”

Three-and-a-half years of high school later, the two had forged a strong bond of which many other fathers would be envious.

“We talked about everything,” said Terence. “He even told me all about wanting to join the Army.”

Terence’s support for his son’s decision was immediate and unconditional.

“I told him that if he wanted to be part of something fraternal like a brotherhood, he should join the Marines,” he said. “After that, I told him I would back any decision he came to.”

After much soul searching and talking with Army recruiters, C.J. ultimately made the decision to join the Marines.

Days later, C.J. was in the Delayed Entry Program and Terence was left with a familiar taste in his mouth.

“Being around the recruiters made me miss the Corps,” he said. “The conversations we had made me miss the guys back in the Fleet. You don’t



C.J. D'Alesandro and his father Terence (far right) take time out for photos with the Marines of RSS Columbia May 20 after C.J.'s high school graduation. Terence said being around C.J.'s recruiters made him miss the brotherhood of the Marine Corps so much that he decided to re-enlist himself.

make friends out in the civilian world the way you do while in the Corps.”

The longing to belong again put Terence in the same chair his son sat in just three months earlier. After putting in a package to enlist once more in mid-April, he was accepted.

The chance to share many things is common among

fathers and sons.

Sharing the same Marine Corps recruiter, however, is not. After all, it is not every day a son gets credit for referring his father to his recruiter.

Terence is now awaiting orders to report to the School of Infantry in North Carolina, while his son is currently going through recruit training

with Echo Co., 2nd RTBn.

C.J. is scheduled to walk across the parade deck at graduation on Sept. 10, a date that Terence will hopefully not miss for the world.

“It’ll be a great day for me,” Terence said. “It’s not like I’ll be losing my son to the Corps, it’s more like I’ll be gaining a brother.”

# Depot Bowling Center

**Hours of Operation:**

<b>Monday-Thursday:</b> 11am-10pm	<b>Saturday:</b> 3pm-1am
<b>Friday:</b> 11am-1am	<b>Sunday:</b> 1-10pm

Glow Bowling every Friday and Saturday !